

## Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IGA-02 /052 W

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P R 161744Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7283

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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AID/W FOR MILES WEDEMAN, TDY IN AFR/OS

ABIDJAN FOR REDSO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID

SUBJ: GABON ACCESS ROADS

REF: LIBREVILLE 0499

1. EMBOFF MEET WITH ACCESS ROAD PROJECT OFFICER KUSCH TO DISCUSS APPARENT DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN GOG AND FRG EMBASSY IN LIBREVILLE. KUSCH CLARIFIED THE GERMAN POSITION IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

(A) KFW REQUIRES BOTH A FEASIBILITY STUDY AND UPDATED ECONOMIC STUDY BEFORE IT CAN PROCEED WITH LOAN NEGOTIATIONS. THE STUDY COMPLETED BY GAUF FULLY MEETS THE FRG REQUIREMENT WITH RESPECT TO A FEASIBILITY STUDY. THE GOG MUST, HOWEVER, DELIVER THIS STUDY FORMALLY TO THE FRG THROUGH THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN LIBREVILLE. KUSCH HAS SO INFORMED HIS EMBASSY AND THE GOG IN A LETTER DATED JANUARY 19.

(B) WHAT THE FRG STILL REQUIRES IS AN UPDATED STUDY OF THE RENTABILITY OF THE PROJECT. BERGER'S EARLIER

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STUDY WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE FRG IF UPDATES COULD

BE MADE TO COVER INCREASED COSTS AND POSITIVE FACTORS SUCH AS THE PROSPECTS FOR USING THE ROADS FOR PURPOSES IN ADDITION TO THE TRANSPORT OF LOGS. THE FRG, HOWEVER, WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE FINANCING OR FORMULATION OF THE UPDATE. IN KUSCH'S VIEW SUCH AN UPDATE WOULD BE EASY TO PREPARE, COULD BE QUICKLY COMPLETED, AND WOULD BE EXTREMELY INEXPENSIVE IN LIGHT OF THE VAST AMOUNTS WHICH THE GOG HAS ALREADY SPENT ON THE RAILROAD AND RELATED PROJECTS.

(C) ONCE THE FEASIBILITY STUDY AND UPDATED ECONOMIC STUDY ARE RECEIVED IN BONN, KFW AND THE MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION CAN, WITHIN THE SPACE OF APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH, COMPLETE THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE WORK AND AUTHORIZE LOAN NEGOTIATIONS.

2. KUSCH EXPRESSED AMAZEMENT THAT THE GERMAN REQUIREMENTS HAVE APPEARED TO CONFUSE THE GOG SO THOROUGHLY. HE WAS IN GABON LAST MONTH ON OTHER BUSINESS AND RAISED THE MATTER WITH HIS EMBASSY AT THE TIME. HE TOLD US THAT THE FRG IS COGNIZANT OF THE AUGUST 31 DEADLINE AND IS INTERESTED IN MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO SIGN THE LOAN AGREEMENT BEFORE THEN. HE BELIEVES THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY NOW RESTS UPON THE GABONESE TO QUICKLY COMMISSION SOMEONE (MOST PROBABLY BERGER) TO UPDATE THE ECONOMIC STUDY AND TO PAY THE COSTS OF THIS UPDATE.

HILLENBRAND

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HIGHWAY ACCESS, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, MEETINGS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, STUDIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BONN04387  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760099-0050  
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**Office:** ACTION AID  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 LIBREVILLE 499  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GABON ACCESS ROADS  
**TAGS:** EAID, ELTN, GB, GE  
**To:** STATE LIBREVILLE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006